

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a printing press having a pair of plate cylinders with each having a cylindrical body and a central axis of rotation, means for mounting the plate cylinders from at least one side frame such that the axes of the plate cylinders are in spaced parallel relation, the printing press also having a pair of blanket cylinders with each having a cylindrical body and a central axis of rotation, the improvement comprising:

means for mounting the blanket cylinders to the at least one side frame such that the axes of the blanket cylinders are in spaced parallel relation, the mounting means accommodating linear adjustable positioning of the blanket cylinders along spaced parallel adjustment axes, the spaced parallel adjustment axes for the blanket cylinders lying in a plane generally transverse to the axes of the blanket cylinders.

2. The printing press of claim 1 wherein the spaced parallel adjustment axes for the blanket cylinders are linear adjustment axes lying generally in the plane of the at least one side frame.

3. The printing press of claim 1 wherein the mounting means includes a pair of linear slideways in the at least one side frame and a linear slide assembly in each of the pair of linear slideways.

4. The printing press of claim 3 wherein the linear slide assembly in each of the pair of linear slideways is axially movable along the corresponding one of the spaced parallel adjustment axes.

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5. The printing press of claim 1 wherein the blanket cylinders each include a shaft journaled in a linear slide assembly mounted within the at least one side frame for linear sliding movement.

5 6. The printing press of claim 1 including a blanket sleeve disposed on the cylindrical body of each of the blanket cylinders and having a thickness selected to provide a desired printing cutoff point.

7. The printing press of claim 1 wherein the mounting means has a preselected range for linear adjustable positioning of the blanket cylinders to accommodate blanket sleeves of different outer diameters.

10 8. In a printing press having a pair of plate cylinders with each having a cylindrical body and a central axis of rotation, means for mounting the plate cylinders from a pair of spaced parallel side frame such that the axes of the plate cylinders are in spaced parallel relation, the printing press also having a pair of blanket cylinders with each having a cylindrical body and a central axis of rotation, the improvement comprising:

15 means for mounting the blanket cylinders to the side frames such that the axes of the blanket cylinders are maintained in spaced parallel relation, the mounting means accommodating linear adjustable positioning of each of the blanket cylinders along respective pairs of spaced
20 parallel adjustment axes in each of the side frames, the spaced parallel adjustment axes for the blanket cylinders being linear adjustment axes lying generally in the planes of the side frames, the mounting means including a respective pair of linear slide assemblies in each of the side frames each of which is carried in a linear slideway so as to be axially movable, the linear
25 slide assemblies being axially movable along the corresponding ones of the linear adjustment axes for the blanket cylinders.

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9. The printing press of claim 8 wherein the blanket cylinders each include a non-rotatable shaft having opposite ends each of which is journaled in one of the linear slide assemblies for linear sliding movement within the corresponding one of the linear slideways for linearly adjustably positioning the blanket cylinders.

10. The printing press of claim 8 including a blanket sleeve on the cylindrical body of each of the blanket cylinders and a printing plate on each of the printing cylinders with each of the blanket sleeves having a thickness selected to provide a blanket sleeve outer diameter creating a desired printing cutoff point.

11. The printing press of claim 8 wherein the mounting means includes at least one stop for each of the linear slide assemblies to define a preselected range of linear adjustable positioning of the blanket cylinders along the respective pairs of spaced parallel adjustment axes to vary spacing between the blanket cylinders.

12. The printing press of claim 8 including means associated with the side frames for each of the printing cylinders for quickly releasing the printing cylinders from the side frames for replacing the printing plates while normally securing the printing cylinders in an operative position during a printing operation.

13. The printing press of claim 8 including a crank disposed in spaced relation to one end of each of the linear slide assemblies, the cranks being mounted to the side frames for pivotal movement, and including a connecting rod joining each of the cranks to the end of the corresponding one of the linear slide assemblies.

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14. The printing press of claim 8 wherein each of the linear slideways is defined by opposed sets of linear bearings, each of the linear slide assemblies includes an arm carried by the set of linear bearings in the corresponding linear slideway, and each of the linear arms extends along the corresponding one of the adjustment axes.

15. In a printing press having a pair of plate cylinders with each having a cylindrical body and a central axis of rotation, means for mounting the plate cylinders from a pair of spaced parallel side frame such that the axes of the plate cylinders are in spaced parallel relation, the printing press also having a pair of blanket cylinders with each having a cylindrical body and a central axis of rotation, the improvement comprising:

a pair of linear slide assemblies in each of the side frames for mounting the blanket cylinders to the side frames such that the axes of the blanket cylinders are maintained in spaced parallel relation, the linear slide assemblies each being carried in a linear slideway to accommodate linear adjustable positioning of the blanket cylinders along respective pairs of spaced parallel adjustment axes, and at least one stop for each of the linear slide assemblies to define a preselected range of linear adjustable positioning of the blanket cylinders to vary spacing between the blanket cylinders.

16. The printing press of claim 15 wherein the blanket cylinders each include a non-rotatable shaft having opposite ends each of which is journaled in one of the linear slide assemblies for linear sliding movement within the corresponding one of the linear slideways for linearly adjustably positioning the blanket cylinders.

17. The printing press of claim 15 including a blanket sleeve on the cylindrical body of each of the blanket cylinders and a printing plate on the cylindrical body of each of the printing cylinders with each of the blanket sleeves having an outer diameter determined by the thickness to provide a desired printing cutoff point.

18. The printing press of claim 15 including means associated with the side frames for each of the printing cylinders for quickly releasing the printing cylinders from the side frames for replacing the printing plates while normally securing the printing cylinders in an operative position during a printing operation.

19. The printing press of claim 15 including a crank disposed in spaced relation to one end of each of the linear slide assemblies, the cranks being mounted to the side frames for pivotal movement, and including a connecting rod joining each of the cranks to the end of the corresponding one of the linear slide assemblies.

20. The printing press of claim 15 wherein each of the linear slideways is defined by opposed sets of linear bearings, each of the linear slide assemblies includes an arm carried by the set of linear bearings in the corresponding linear slideway, and each of the linear arms extends along the corresponding one of the adjustment axes.

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21. In a printing press having a pair of plate cylinders with each having a cylindrical body and a central axis of rotation, means for mounting the plate cylinders from a pair of spaced parallel side frame such that the axes of the plate cylinders are in spaced parallel relation, the printing press also having a pair of blanket cylinders with each having a cylindrical body and a central axis of rotation, the improvement comprising:

a pair of linear slide assemblies in each of the side frames for mounting the blanket cylinders to the side frames such that the axes of the blanket cylinders are maintained in spaced parallel relation, the linear slide assemblies each including a blanket cylinder mounting block and a pair of linear arms extending in opposite directions from the mounting block and carried in opposed sets of linear bearings in a linear slideway, the linear slide assemblies also each including a crank mounted for pivotal movement in spaced relation to each of the linear arms extending from each of the mounting blocks on the corresponding one of the side frames, the linear slide assemblies also each including a connecting rod joining each of the cranks to the corresponding one of the linear arms to accommodate linear adjustable positioning of the blanket cylinders, and a stop for each of the cranks to define a preselected range of linear adjustable positioning of the blanket cylinders along respective pairs of spaced parallel adjustment axes whereby spacing between the blanket cylinders can be varied to permit use of blanket sleeves of different thicknesses to provide a blanket sleeve outer diameter creating a desired printing cutoff point.

22. The printing press of claim 21 wherein the blanket cylinders each include a non-rotatable shaft having opposite ends each of which is journaled in one of the mounting blocks in each of the side frames.

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23. The printing press of claim 22 wherein the linear arms extending from the mounting blocks are disposed in the linear bearings in the linear slideways for linear sliding movement therewithin.

5 24. The printing press of claim 23 including a blanket sleeve disposed on the cylindrical body of each of the blanket cylinders and a printing plate disposed on the cylindrical body of each of the plate cylinders.

25. The printing press of claim 21 including means associated with the side frames for each of the printing cylinders for quick release of the printing cylinders from the side frames for replacing the printing plates.

10 26. The printing press of claim 25 wherein the quick release means each comprise a releasable clamp having an opening for receiving an end of a shaft associated with the corresponding one of the printing cylinders to accommodate rotational movement.

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